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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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### UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

#### *Reports from San Francisco, Cal.—Status of plague.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue reports:

September 20. Complete record to date, 35 cases; 21 deaths.

September 22. Report to date: Cases, 38; deaths, 22.

September 25. Cases to date, 43; deaths, 26.

#### *Reports from San Francisco Quarantine, Angel Island, Cal.—Examination of rats for plague infection—Outgoing quarantine transactions.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Hobdy reports, September 10 and 11:

August 29 I inspected a building at Meigg's Wharf. The building was found to swarm with rats, and dead rats were scattered over the floor. I examined 3 rats bacteriologically. Two presented nothing suspicious, but the third had typical lesions of plague and smears showed a bacillus that morphologically and in its reaction to staining reagents could not be distinguished from the *Bacillus pestis*.

At the time of examination these rats had certainly been dead at least forty-eight hours. They literally swarmed with fleas, of which two distinct varieties were present on the same rat.

A piece of the spleen from the third rat was used to inoculate a guinea pig. On post-mortem examination, September 6, the pig showed all the lesions of plague; his buboes swarmed with bacilli like those of plague, and pure cultures obtained at the time grew in a manner characteristic of plague.

Week ended September 7, 1907. Number of outgoing vessels disinfected and certified, 40.

#### *Smallpox on steamship Vienna at Delaware Breakwater Quarantine, Delaware.*

A case of smallpox removed September 24 from the steamship *Vienna*, from Tagal, Java, died the same day at Delaware Breakwater Quarantine Station. Directions were wired September 24 to the Acting Assistant Surgeon in charge to vaccinate such of the personnel of the ship as were unprotected and remand the vessel to Reedy Island for disinfection and detention.